

Hafa Adai!

Comments sought for Draft EIS of Guam air and missile defense system. **PAGE 3**
KCHC welcomes new CEO Dr. Cindy Hoepner. **PAGE 4**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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902 CONSULTATIONS

More talks expected in following weeks

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first round of 902 negotiations between the CNMI and U.S. governments pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant held on Saipan may have concluded after two days of continuous discussions.

See MORE on Page 4

Flooding temporarily closes NMTECH



Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff use buckets to clear out flooding inside one of their classrooms.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute has been forced to halt classes and close its campus in Lowe Base from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 due to flooding brought about by Tropical Depression Kong-rey 23W last weekend.

NMTECH chief executive officer Jodina Attao released

See FLOODING on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

A brief history of polio eradication campaigns was made by Rotary of Saipan past president Dr. Peter Gregor before members of the club last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

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BUSINESS

The Tinian Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, successfully hosted a comprehensive training session on loan programs aimed at empowering local small businesses.

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LIFE & STYLE

Phil Lesh, a classically trained violinist and jazz trumpeter who found his true calling reinventing the role of rock bass guitar as a founding member of the Grateful Dead, died Friday at age 84.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA)



DERA grants and rebates, administered and awarded by the US EPA, are intended to protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines.

The DERA grant releases competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities on a yearly basis. Interested parties may contact the BECQ DEQ Clean Air Program to inquire about equipment eligibility and other program guidelines and requirements.

Selected recipients may receive funding that covers up to 100% of the costs to replace existing diesel-powered vehicles, equipment, or engines!



WHAT IS DIESEL EXHAUST?

Diesel is a type of fuel derived from crude oil.

Diesel exhaust is produced from the burning of diesel fuel in most large engines, including trucks, buses, ships, construction and farm equipment, generators, and in some cars. It is a mixture of gases, vapors, and fine particulates that are harmful to both human health and the environment.



Short term exposure to diesel exhaust can cause coughs, headaches, nausea, allergic reactions causing asthma, and irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and respiratory tract.

Long term exposure increases the risk for serious health effects such as lung cancer.



WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO DIESEL EXHAUST

- Limit the amount of time you spend near running engines.
- If diesel fuel is necessary, choose Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel.
- Service your engines regularly to reduce exhaust fumes. If possible, replace old diesel engines.
- Report excessive diesel smoke to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality!



2006 Ford New Holland Tractor



DERA FOR CNMI



- In 2022, the BECQ Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) applied for and received the DERA State Grant, with the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources as the sub-awardee to replace their 2006 Ford New Holland tractor.
- The 2006 Ford New Holland tractor with a Tier 1 engine was replaced by a 2022 John Deere tractor with a Tier 4 engine.
- Tier 4 certified engines meet EPA's highest emission standards by significantly reducing air pollution, specifically emissions of particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) to near zero levels.



2022 John Deere Tractor



For more information, please contact the DEQ Clean Air Program at

670-664-8512 or email deq.air@becq.gov.mp

Local

Comments sought for Draft EIS of Guam air and missile defense system

The Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and the Federal Aviation Administration, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System in Guam.

The Draft EIS includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed construction, deployment, and operations and maintenance of the EIAMD system to defend Guam against advanced missile threats (Proposed Action).

Mitigation measures that, if employed, could avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action are also analyzed in the Draft EIS. The MDA and cooperating agencies welcome the public's participation during the Draft EIS public review and comment period.

Open house public meetings

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and to further the involvement opportunity under the National Historic Preservation Act, MDA and cooperating agencies will hold three in-person public meetings:

■ Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, 4pm-7pm, Hågat Mayor's Office Community Center, Building 393, Route 2, Hågat, Guam

■ Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, 4pm-7pm, Hilton Guam Resort, Micronesian Room, 202 Hilton Rd., Tumon Bay, Guam

■ Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, 5pm-8pm, Dededo Senior Center, 319 Iglesia Circle, Dededo, Guam

Public meetings will be in an open-house format and will include poster stations staffed by MDA and representatives of the cooperating agencies who can provide information and answer questions about the Proposed Action and the findings of the Draft EIS. Attendees will be able to submit official oral and written comments during the public meetings. Oral comments from the public will be recorded by a court reporter in a one-on-one setting. Equal weight will be given to oral and written comments.

Submitting comments

The MDA and cooperating agencies invite the public to review the Draft EIS and submit official comments during the public review and comment period from Oct. 25, 2024, through Jan. 8, 2025. The Draft EIS is available for download on the project website or in print at the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy and the Nieves M. Flores memorial libraries.

NEPA requires a 45-day public comment period, but MDA is providing a 75-day comment period to allow more time for the public to review and submit substantive comments. To ensure a response and appropriate consideration in the Final EIS, comments must be postmarked or received online by Jan. 8, 2025. Comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted at the public meetings, online at www.EIAMD-EIS.com, by email to info@EIAMD-EIS.com, or by U.S. postal mail to:

■ ManTech International Corporation
Attention: EIAMD EIS Project Support
PMB 403
1270 N. Marine Corps Dr., Suite 101
Tumuning, Guam 96913-4331

Proposed action

Within the context of homeland defense, Guam is a key strategic location for sustaining and maintaining U.S. capabilities, deterring adversaries, responding to crises, and maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. As a U.S. territory, an attack on Guam would be considered a direct attack on the United States and would be met with an appropriate response. Current U.S. forces are capable of defending Guam against today's regional ballistic missile threats. However, regional missile threats to Guam continue to increase and advance technologically. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command identified a requirement for a 360-degree EIAMD system on Guam as soon as possible to address the rapid evolution of adversary missile threats.

The Proposed Action is to construct, deploy, and operate and maintain a comprehensive, persistent, 360-degree EIAMD system to defend the people, infrastructure, and territory of Guam against the rapidly evolving threats of advanced cruise, ballistic, and hypersonic missile attacks from regional adversaries. The proposed system includes a combination of components from MDA, the Army, and the Navy that would be integrated for air and missile defense. These components include missile defense radars, sensors, missile launchers and missile interceptors, and command and control systems.

The MDA and the Army need to strategically locate and integrate the various system components at multiple sites around Guam. The MDA and the Army identified 16 proposed sites on Guam, all on Department of Defense property. A limited number of the proposed sites would require acquisition of appropriate real property interests on non-federal properties for

access, or where buffer and safety zone arcs encroach on non-federal properties. If the decision is made to proceed with the Proposed Action, site preparation and construction would begin in 2025 and continue, site by site, through 2035. The EIAMD operational capability would be phased in as each site completes construction, testing, and final system checks of the installed components. Following final construction, testing,

and final system-wide checks, the EIAMD system would become fully operational.

National Historic Preservation Act Section 106

The Draft EIS public review and comment period also supports the NHPA Section 106 process. The Navy has determined that the proposed undertaking shall follow The Programmatic Agreement Among

the Commander, Navy Region Marianas, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Guam Historic Preservation Officer, Regarding Navy Undertakings on the Island of Guam (2008) to fulfill Section 106 responsibilities and to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate effects on historic properties. Members of the public are welcome to provide comment.

To provide input or learn how to become a consulting party, submit your request at the public meetings, online at

www.EIAMD-EIS.com, by email to info@EIAMD-EIS.com, or by U.S. postal mail to the address above.

Visit the project website at www.mda.mil/system/eiamd to learn more about the project. (PR)

ARMATECH



Electric Motor
Rewinder and
Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-3895

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on January 22, 2024, Manuel Camacho Boria & Angelina Ayvuu Boria, an immediate family member of Geraldine A. Borja, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Geraldine A. Borja, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnni-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024**.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on December 28, 2023, Ronnie L. Aguon, an immediate family member of Daelina T. Aguon, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Aguon, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnni-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024**.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO. 1

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP25-OPD/DPW-42500001

"MULTI-SHREDDER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE"

This Addendum No. 1 is issued to change the date for questions and reschedule the proposal submission and opening date for the above-referenced RFP. And to state that the Pre-Proposal Conference is Mandatory.

The changes are as follows:

- All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 06, 2024 to Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Division, 2nd Floor, Transfer Station Office Building, Pagu Avenue, Lower Base, Saipan or by emailing: planning@opd.gov.mp. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.
- There will be a MANDATORY Pre-Proposal Conference for this project on Friday, November 01, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Office of Planning and Development, Main Conference Room, Building 1324 Guguan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site of the Project.
- Sealed proposals must be sealed and marked "RFP25-OPD/DPW-No.: 42500001 - MULTI-SHREDDER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE". For Proposers located within CNMI, one (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at Building 12386, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am local time, Chamorro Standard Time, Tuesday, November 19, 2024.
- Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, November 19, 2024 and may filled in (Please see pg. 6) and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to bidintend@dot.gov.mp.
- For proposers outside the CNMI, one (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST., November 19, 2024, AND must be received not later than November 27, 2024. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.

/s/
Christopher R. Sablan
OPD Deputy Director

/s/
Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
Acting Director, Procurement Services

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on January 23, 2024, Rita Reyes Fitial, an immediate family member of Jennifer Muna Reyes, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Reyes, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnni-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024**.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

Court rejects Villanueva's motion for reconsideration in BOOST case

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The NMI Superior Court has denied Shayne Blanco Villanueva's latest at-

JAPANESE

From page 1

to proceed with the festival scheduled for 5pm last Saturday.

"Our priority is the safety of all participants and guests. The Saipan Mayor's Office, the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Katori Shrine representative were in contact with the National Weather Service in Guam, which indicated that the wind and rain are expected to decrease in the afternoon. All three organizations agreed at 9am on Friday morning but canceled an official ceremony for Saipan Katori Shrine," said Tenorio.

The event started with the traditional breaking of the sake barrel by James Guerrero, son of former Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director J.M. Guerrero; MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, Saipan

tempt to dismiss the charges against him in an order issued by NMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last Friday.

The ruling denying Villanueva's

Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho, Japan consul Ryoji Takagaki, Katori Shrine high priest Takeshi Katori, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Kyowa Kensetsu chair Noboru Hirayama, and Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas chair Seiji Sato and vice chair Hiroko Tenorio. It was followed by the sharing of the beverage to guests.

Apatang, in an interview, thanked Katori City for their support of the Japanese Autumn Festival.

"I just want to say thank you to Katori City for coming back this year."

He added that it's unfortunate that the festival has to happen on a rainy and monsoon season but nevertheless, being in good spirits, he encouraged people to enjoy the festival.

Meanwhile, Concepcion was grateful that the traditional event happened despite the weather conditions.

"There's a nice crowd, it's exciting. We are grateful that the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Is-

lands decided to continue hosting the festival tonight. This is I don't know for how many years, but it's been going on for a few decades, and we are very happy that the tradition continues," he said.

Concepcion added that the festival is a symbol of the strong friendship between the people of Japan and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Concepcion mentioned that MVA is working hard to attract more Japanese tourists to CNMI.

"We're working very hard every day to actually bring in more Japanese tourists. We have a representative office in Japan that does all the work that needs to be done to be able to market the CNMI to Japan. We have direct flights from Narita, three times a week, so we're working to build off of that," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

solicitor at U.S. Department of the Interior Tim Murphy, and budget officer for the Office of Insular Affairs Jonathan Dunn.

In a quick statement from Cantor, she said it's a pleasure and honor to engage in discussion with CNMI stakeholders.

"It is a great pleasure and honor to join you hear in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands as the United States' special representative to engage in the important work of the 902 consultations as provided in Article 7 of the Covenant. We received the CNMI's position paper regarding economic development and assistance. I commend the team for its clarity in discussing the CNMI's fiscal and economic challenges and its thoughtful treatment of the opportunity to structure a more sustainable future," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ing extended.

"Please be advised that the closure period may be extended, pending further assessments. We are working diligently with our facilities team and relevant authorities to determine the full extent of the damage and establish a timeline for reopening."

In addition, all classes and on-campus activities will be suspended during that period. The students are encouraged to monitor their emails and NMTech's official social media channels for updates regarding scheduling changes and the reopening of the campus.

A follow-up memo was then released on Oct. 26 in response to the recent flooding on campus wherein Attao said NMTech is activating their emergency response plan.

FLOODING

From page 1

a memo last Friday announcing NMTech's closure to ensure the safety of its students, faculty, and staff and for them to assess and address the damage caused by the flooding.

The photos sent to *Saipan Tribune* by Attao yesterday showed that they were cleaning the flooded rooms and the broken ceiling of one of NMTech's rooms.

When asked if any school equipment was damaged by the rising waters, Attao said, "Nothing at the moment. Most of our assets are on wheels. We just got all the water out today (Sunday), so tomorrow (today) we are conducting a full assessment."

The memo also stated that the closure would have a possibility of be-

their presence is very crucial in assessing the situation and implementing recovery efforts.

The meeting with the stakeholders was canceled so they can focus on addressing the impacts of the flooding.

Attao ended her memo by saying that although they completed a thorough clean-up last Saturday following the initial flooding, the recent weather has caused further issues that require immediate attention.

"It is critical to address any standing water promptly, as prolonged exposure can lead to significant water damage to the building's structure and poses risks to safety. I thank you all for your cooperation and understanding as we work through this challenging time. Your commitment to our mission and to each other is greatly appreciated."

and Stability Program program, an initiative under scrutiny for alleged misuse of public funds.

Villanueva, a former BOOST program manager and political associate of former governor Ralph DLG Torres, argued that his initial motion should be reconsidered on two grounds—that the court's use of the term "investigation" constituted clear error and that new email evidence indicated he was under investigation prior to his court appearance in March. The court, however, found these arguments insufficient to alter the previous ruling. Naraja emphasized that Villanueva's motion, filed last Sept. 13, exceeded the 10-day limit mandated by court rules, making it untimely and beyond the court's jurisdiction.

"Defendant's motion for reconsideration was not filed until Sept. 13, 2024—15 days after the entry of the challenged Order," the judge noted in the decision, emphasizing that the ten-day deadline is "mandatory and jurisdictional."

In his argument, Villanueva pointed to the court's use of the term "investigation" as grounds for clear error. He contended that he was, in fact, the subject of a legislative investigation and thus warranted Fifth Amendment protections. However, Naraja clarified

that the court's reference to "investigation" specifically applied to the Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding, which led to Villanueva's involvement as a witness. This context, Naraja explained, did not suggest Villanueva himself was under criminal investigation by that committee, rendering his claim of clear error without basis.

"Defendant is not even the subject of this investigation," Naraja stated, referring to Villanueva's role as a witness in the legislative committee rather than as a direct target.

Further, Villanueva argued that emails exchanged between counsels earlier in the year should be considered new evidence, as they indicated he was informed of a potential investigation against him before his March appearance. Naraja, however, dismissed these emails as valid grounds for reconsideration, stating that they did not meet the criteria for new evidence. The emails were available to Villanueva's counsel before the original motion to dismiss was filed, thus failing to qualify as "newly discovered" under legal standards.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

The delegate said the project will reduce storm-driven coastal flooding and erosion while also increasing capacity for coral restoration and improving the resilience of coral stock.

The \$1.4 million award for Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is intended to implement natural shoreline enhancements and support green stormwater infrastructure along Saipan's Quartermaster Road intersection.

Sablan said the project will create a more resilient shoreline, improve water quality, and protect critical habitat and infrastructure.

He said the \$98,410 award also for Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is for removal of the derelict fishing vessel Lady Carolina from the reef in the Saipan lagoon.

The delegate said the \$1 million for the Office of the Governor is needed to enhance inter-island collaboration and build capacity among a working group of researchers, biologists, medicinal practitioners, and the community for increased resilience of native medicinal plants.

He said the project will establish methods needed to improve green space and expand and preserve the use of indigenous traditional knowledge.

Sablan said these four projects are still under consideration with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and that final announcements are expected soon.

The NFWF is a nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress that attracts investments for conservation and encourages locally-supported, voluntary stewardship of fish, wildlife, and plants on private and public lands.

Labor reminds employers of quarterly census of employment deadline

The CNMI Department of Labor reminds all employers of their obligation to submit their Census of Employment reports as mandated by the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, as amended.

This vital data collection effort supports the effective administration of employment initiatives benefiting CNMI citizens, permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents in the Commonwealth.

Reporting requirements

NMIAC 80 — 20.1 — 505 Census of Employment

All employers in the CNMI are required to submit quarterly reports detailing the number and classification of employees as of the last day of each quarter.

The department asks that all employers (public and private sector) submit their 3rd quarter Census of Employment report by uploading it through the official website: www.labor.cnmi.gov by Oct. 31, 2024.

"Accurate and timely em-

ployment data is crucial for our efforts to promote full employment in the Commonwealth," stated the department. "We urge all employers to comply with these reporting requirements to support our mission of fair and effective workforce development."

Report deadlines follow the calendar year quarter:

- 1st Quarter: April 30
- 2nd Quarter: July 31
- 3rd Quarter: Oct. 31
- 4th Quarter: Jan. 31 of the following year.

All reports must be submitted online using the official and current form provided by the department and completed according to the form's instructions found here: <https://labor.cnmi.gov/workforce-listing/>.

Both the form and instructions can be found on the department's website located on the Resources tab, under Forms and Publications.

Failure to comply may result in a notice of violation, fines, or other sanctions.

For additional information or assistance, please contact the Department of Labor at info@dol.gov.mp or call (670) 664-3196. (PR)

NMC to host free Spring 2025 info session on Oct. 29

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session regarding the upcoming Spring 2025 semester on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024.

The info session will be held at the American Memorial Park indoor theatre in Garapan, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Spring 2025 semester, a savings of about \$75.

Incoming students who have previously attended any NMC Recruitment event for this year, are eligible to avail of the waiver fee once for the entire year, and do not need to attend this event.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or with-

KCHC welcomes new CEO Dr. Cindy Hoepner

Kagman Community Health Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Cindy Pangelinan Hoepner as its new chief executive officer, effective Dec. 16, 2024. A native of Saipan, Hoepner brings extensive healthcare leadership experience and a strong commitment to serving the people of the CNMI.

Hoepner has held key leadership roles, including chief operations officer at Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and system director of Regulatory, Accreditation, & Policy at MHealth Fairview in Minnesota. Her expertise in healthcare operations, compliance, and quality patient care will be instrumental in leading KCHC

through its next phase of growth.

"Kagman Community Health Center is excited to have Dr. Hoepner return to the CNMI to guide our organization," said Matthew Gregory, chairman of the KCHC board of directors. "Her experience and passion for improving healthcare access align perfectly with our mission to serve the community."

Hoepner expressed her enthusiasm for the role, stating, "It's an honor to return home and contribute to the health and well-being of our island community. I look forward to working with the dedicated team at KCHC to expand services and continue delivering quality care." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman Community Health Center incoming CEO Dr. Cindy Pangelinan Hoepner.

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Attorney for Plaintiff Juliana C. Samonte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JULIANA C. SAMONTE | Civil Action No.
Plaintiff, | 22-0224-CV
|
VS- |
SUNG HUN SON, | Date: November 12, 2024
Defendant. | Time: 1:30 p.m.
| Judge: Hon. Lillian
| Ada Tenorio

NOTICE OF HEARING

A copy of the Motion is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court of the said Court. SIGNED this 10th day of September, 2024.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
By:
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jamerito Adona | FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Casama | NO. 24-0160
Petitioner, |
| SUMMONS FOR
vs. | PUBLICATION
Yolanda Cruz |
Casama |
Respondent, |

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is Box 10003 PMB 686 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 3rd of October, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court



**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-25

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAPIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES (RFP-007-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAPIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5982
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMIMPORTS.COM](https://WWW.CNMIMPORTS.COM)

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Car Rental Concessions" for: CPA-RFP-002-25

(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposers will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmimports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW25-ITB No.: 42500002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 22, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA)."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 22, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasury and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 07, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**, ChST at the **Office of Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA)**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on November 13, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ DEREK SASAMOTO
Acting Executive Director of CEDA

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Election denialism could spark violence after a close race

Donald J. Trump is rightly being criticized for his threat that, if elected, he would deploy the National Guard and the military against “the enemy from within,” a term he has applied to political opponents such as Rep. Adam B. Schiff and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Trump’s defenders argue that his threat concerned only what House Speaker Mike Johnson called “marauding gangs of dangerous, violent people.” And Trump, after much coaxing from a Wall Street Journal columnist to “clarify” his previous comments, told the newspaper’s editorial board that he wouldn’t use the military against his political opponents.

Yet there is a more immediate danger from another feature of rhetoric coming from Trump, his running mate Sen. JD Vance and top Republican supporters: election denialism. After seeming to acknowledge that he lost to Joe Biden “by a whisker,” Trump retreated to his old falsehoods about the 2020 election in his Sept. 10 debate with Vice President Kamala Harris.

The former president has since suggested that he would lose to Harris this year only if there is fraud. “They cheat,” he told a crowd at an Oct. 6 rally in Wisconsin. “That’s all they want to do is cheat. And when you see this, it’s the only way they’re going to win.”

The myth of election fraud seems to have stoked distrust of the electoral system among many Trump supporters. Polls suggest that many of them have concerns that the 2024 election will be marred by fraud. It also could serve as a manifesto for the most extreme MAGA supporters if Trump narrowly loses the election.

The riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, is proof that lies can inspire Trump’s most unhinged supporters to engage in violence. Fortunately, the official counting of electoral votes has been designated a “National Special Security Event,” and afforded the same level of security as presidential inaugurations and political conventions.

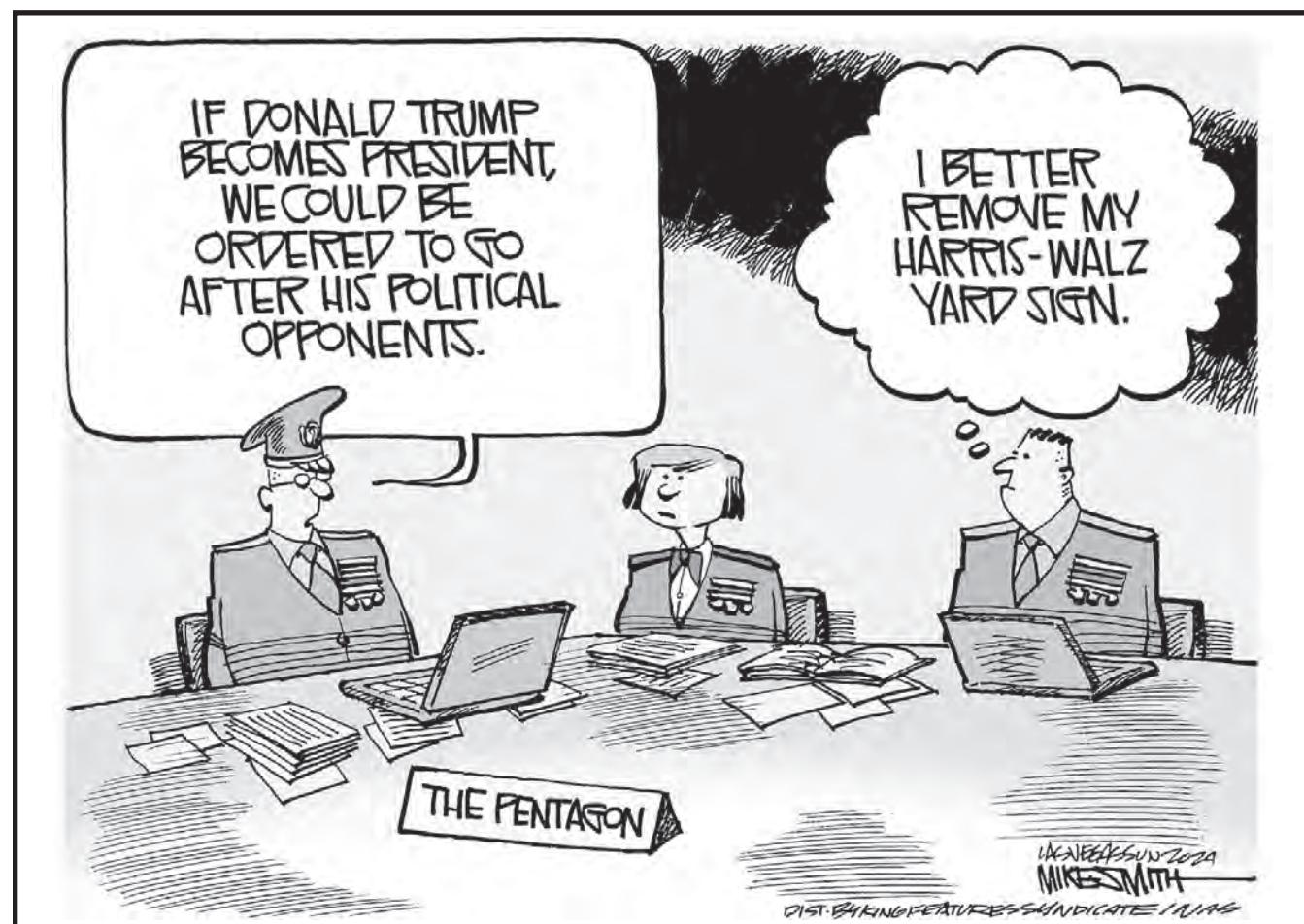
What about election day? Experts believe that violence at polling places on Nov. 5 is unlikely, and steps have been taken since 2021 to protect polling places and sites where votes are counted.

But sadly the possibility of election day violence can’t be discounted completely, given the level of threats and harassment aimed at election officials. Some school districts whose campuses are used as polling centers have gone so far as to cancel classes on Nov. 5.

The greater danger in the event of a close election might be violence or intimidation directed against election workers and state officials in the period between Nov. 6 and Jan. 6, 2025.

Suppose, as in 2020, early election returns reflecting in-person voting create a “red mirage” suggesting a Trump victory. But then mail-in ballots counted later alter the outcome in favor of the Democratic candidate. There would be noth-

See ELECTION on Page 7



Top 10 reasons not to vote for Trump

The only challenge here was limiting myself to 10 arguments against Donald Trump (and one good reason to vote for Kamala Harris). So, drum roll, working toward No. 1:

10: As president, he violated his oath to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.”

Ask Mike Pence, who forfeited his place as Trump’s ticket mate to Ohio Sen. JD Vance because Pence wouldn’t violate the Constitution; Vance would. Even after leaving office, Trump called for terminating parts of it so he could regain power. No one should think he’d keep the oath if given a second chance, especially when the Supreme Court that he packed has ruled that presidents are virtually immune from prosecution.

9: He still won’t say that he’ll accept the voters’ verdict.

And that is still unprecedented. Trump has gravely eroded Americans’ faith in the elections that are fundamental to democracy. He lied after his 2016 victory in the electoral college that he lost the popular vote only because up to 5 million people voted illegally for Hillary Clinton. His efforts to flip his 2020 loss to Joe Biden got him criminally indicted, another first.

8: He will be held accountable for his alleged crimes as president only if he is defeated.

If reelected, Trump can order “his” Justice Department to bury the two federal cases that he succeeded in delaying past the election—the Washington trial for allegedly trying to overturn the 2020 election, and the case in Florida for allegedly making off with and hiding top government secrets. A third case in Georgia, state charges for attempting to subvert its 2020 vote for Biden, could well be shelved if he were back in office.

7: He’d be the first president with a serious rap sheet.

Trump has been found guilty or liable for sexual abuse, defamation, civil financial fraud and criminal business fraud to conceal a tryst with a porn star. He’s also the first president to be impeached twice, justifiably. Character counts: Voters should not hire for president someone who wouldn’t be hired by any private employer in the land.

6: He’s unfit to be president.

Take it from scores of former top advisors, including nearly half of the 42 people who served in Trump’s Cabinet. The early Cabinet members he once called “my generals”? James N. Mattis, H.R. McMaster and John F. Kelly all broke with their former commander in chief. Even those who back Trump have damned him: Former Atty. Gen. William Barr said Trump “shouldn’t be anywhere near the Oval Office” and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley called him “unhinged.” Let those two shape-shifters put party over country to vote for Trump. Voters shouldn’t.

By JACKIE CALMES

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



5: He’s a threat to national security.

Trump is “the most dangerous person to this country,” Mark A. Milley, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says in Bob Woodward’s new book. He’s more likely to be seduced by murderous autocrats than stand up to them. He’s poised to appease war criminal Vladimir Putin and reward Russia’s lawless invasion by abandoning Ukraine. Woodward reports that Trump has had seven calls with Putin since leaving office, suggesting a treacherous willingness to undermine allies’ support for Ukraine, Europe’s security and U.S. alliances generally. He encouraged Russia to do “whatever the hell they want” to NATO members who miss defense spending targets. As Foreign Affairs reported: “His first term tested the transatlantic relationship—but his second would break it.”

4: He doesn’t know or care how to constructively address the nation’s problems.

The most policy-ignorant candidate in memory, Trump turned to the extremists behind Project 2025 for a blueprint, though he denies it now. Deal maker? He lacks the attention span, grasp of details and spirit of compromise to enact bipartisan laws. In a Wall Street Journal survey, most economists predicted that inflation, interest rates and deficits would be much higher under his proposed tax cuts and tariffs than under Harris’ policies. (And, no, Trump’s tariffs wouldn’t cut child-care costs.) He had Republicans kill an immigration bill to keep the issue alive for his demagogic campaign. His solution: “bloody” deportations of millions of migrants.

3: He’d further pack the federal courts with right-wing ideologues.

To confirm his picks, Trump would be helped, again, by what is expected to be a Republican-majority Senate. Again, he’d choose young nominees to serve for decades: “You don’t put old in, because they’re there for two years or three years,” he said last week. The Supreme Court’s far-right justices, Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr., would likely retire so Trump could seat much-younger, like-minded replacements.

See TRUMP on Page 7

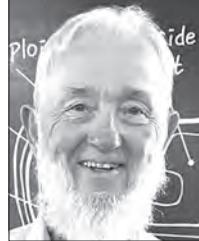
Whence the milk of human kindness

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



Exposition/inspiration (quotes)

"...the milk of human kindness" is a quotation from *Macbeth* (a play by William Shakespeare) spoken by Lady Macbeth as she expressed her concern that her husband lacked the necessary ruthlessness to kill Duncan and seize the throne:

"Yet do I fear thy nature; it is too full o' the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way." Other quotes on the subject:

"Kindness is giving hope to those who think they are all alone in this world." And "kindness is seeing the best in others when they can't see it in themselves."

Development /themes (a sonnet)

When the milk of human kindness turns sour
and it smells bad tastes bad and we feel sad
when it continues to get worse by the hour
concluding with the most vitriol you ever had
When thoughts producing human kindness run dry
and peaceful existence begins to slowly ebb away
and doves of peace no longer fly up in your sky
its time to forage for freedom and make some hay
When the cream of human kindness freezes into ice
or curdles and spoils from all your hot temper heat
and people add insults to injury making life not nice
swearing using four letter expletives we won't repeat
We need to use a lot more friendship and forgiveness
and drink heartily the milk of kindness that it gives us.
Recapitulation/Coda (a limerick)
When you and others grow tired of anger and that ilk
surrounded by no moral integrity folks who try to bilk
try and adhere to common sense, use some compromise
follow the 10 Commandments, heed words of the wise
you will find you have more human kindness milk.

From William Shakespeare's play *Pericles*

"Yet cease your ire, you angry stars of heaven!"

ELECTION

From page 6

ing improper about such results, but Trump supporters primed to be suspicious of the system might assume that there was foul play—and overreact, perhaps violently.

That is why Trump's self-interested disparagement of the election system has been so corrosive, absurd as some of his claims are. (He has asserted, for example, that he would win California "if we had an honest vote counter.") On Monday, in response to a question at a news conference, Trump said he hadn't seen evidence of cheating—though he ominously added: "Unfortunately, I know the other side, and they are not good."

"The No. 1 variable that increases election violence is political leaders alleging election fraud," said Rachel Kleinfeld, a senior fellow in the Democracy, Conflict and Governance Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Better late than never, Trump should stop sowing doubt about voting and put aside any thought of responding to a loss in a close election with spurious claims of fraud.

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TRUMP

From page 6

2. He's a pathological liar.

Trump's constant lies range from the relatively harmless to life-threatening. Residents of Springfield, Ohio, endured school and hospital closures amid bomb threats after Trump lied that

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Legalization through 'registry'

Current immigration law contains a provision called "registry" that allows certain non-citizens who are long-term residents of the United States, but who are either undocumented or present in the country under some sort of temporary immigration status, to "register" for Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status. In order to qualify, individuals must have entered the country on or before a specified date (known as the "registry date") and must demonstrate good moral character and continuous residence since their entry. After its creation in 1929, Congress advanced the registry date four times, most recently in 1986, when the date was set at January 1, 1972—meaning that only non-citizens who entered the United States by that date are eligible to apply for LPR status through registry. This date is now so far in the past that few individuals are eligible. However, Congress has the power to advance the registry date again at any time, which would potentially allow millions of non-citizens to become LPRs and, ultimately, U.S. citizens.

The original registry provision created in 1929 applied to any non-citizen who met the following conditions: entered the country prior to June 3, 1921; had continuously resided in the country since entering; demonstrated "good moral character"; was not subject to deportation under U.S. immigration laws; and for whom a record of lawful admission was not available. The registry provision was amended in 1940 and the registry date advanced to July 1, 1924. However, a more substantive revision took place in 1958. In that year, not only was the registry date advanced to June 28, 1940, but the requirement that eligible non-citizens not be subject to deportation was eliminated. Rather, the revised provision only excluded individuals who were previously granted LPR status or were inadmissible to the United States on criminal or national security grounds. As a result, non-citizens who had entered the country without inspection or overstayed a visa became eligible to apply for LPR status through registry. After 1958 the registry date was advanced twice more. In 1965 it was changed to June 30, 1948, and in 1986 it was changed for the last time to January 1, 1972. Subsequent immigration laws have expanded the list of offenses that would disqualify a non-citizen for registry eligibility.

Registry applicants do not need a U.S. petitioner, medical exam, or financial affidavit of support. Under current law, an individual without a record of lawful admission for permanent residence qualifies for registry if he or she meets the following conditions:

- entered the United States prior to January 1, 1972
- maintained continuous residence in the United States since

his or her entry

- is physically present in the United States at the time he or she files the application
- is a person of good moral character
- is not inadmissible to the United States under certain grounds (such as having been convicted of certain crimes) or is not eligible for a waiver of inadmissibility or other form of relief
- is not ineligible for citizenship or deportable under terrorist-related grounds
- merits the favorable exercise of discretion
- submits an adjustment of status application (Form I-485), together with the appropriate fee, to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Over the course of just a few years after the registry date was last advanced in 1986, tens of thousands of non-citizens became LPRs under the registry provision. According to government data, 58,914 individuals benefitted from registry between Fiscal Year (FY) 1985 and FY 1989. But as the registry date receded further into the past, fewer and fewer people were eligible to apply. Only 11,191 non-citizens became LPRs through registry in the 1990s. That number fell to 2,319 in the 2000s and 911 in the 2010s.

Were Congress to again advance the registry date, millions of non-citizens who are long-term residents of the United States could potentially apply for LPR status. According to the Department of Homeland Security, 47 percent of undocumented immigrants in the United States as of 2018 (5.4 million people) had arrived before 2000. Another 37 percent (4.2 million) had arrived between 2000 and 2009. Depending on how far Congress chose to advance the registry date, a great many of these long-term undocumented residents of the United States might qualify for registry. For instance, the Center for American Progress estimates that updating the registry date from 1972 to 2010 would make 6.8 million undocumented immigrants potentially eligible to apply for LPR status.

Of course, some non-citizens would be ineligible for registry due to criminal convictions or extended absences from the United States. However, it is likely that millions of undocumented immigrants would be eligible. And eligibility could arguably include some noncitizens with temporary status, such as individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and temporary workers whose applications for LPR status are stuck in visa backlog. Congress could make this possible by doing nothing more than changing a date in current immigration law.

American Immigration Council

Beach Road construction taking toll on businesses

Dear CNMI Community,

The road construction on Saipan's Beach Road has had profound consequences on local businesses, many of which are struggling to stay afloat.

The prolonged construction has led to significant disruptions in traffic flow, resulting in a sharp decline in foot traffic, customer accessibility, and overall business visibility. Restaurants, retail shops, and other establishments heavily reliant on daily customers have seen reduced sales, with some businesses forced to reduce operating hours or close entirely.

The noise, dust, and detours have created an unwelcoming atmosphere for both customers and employees, further exacerbating the decline in business activity.

Despite the necessity of infrastructure improvements for the island's long-term development, the immediate impact on businesses has been severe. Many have questioned whether the CNMI government is providing adequate support to help businesses navigate these difficulties. So far, there has been limited direct financial assistance from the government, leaving businesses to find ways to cope on their own. Some have turned to social media and online sales to retain customers, while others have sought collaboration with authorities to improve signage

and access during construction.

There is a growing need for the CNMI government to step in with relief measures, such as tax breaks, subsidies, or emergency funds, to prevent further closures. Additionally, the government could provide support by expediting construction phases in high-traffic areas or organizing marketing campaigns to encourage residents and tourists to continue supporting local businesses. Without timely intervention, the long-term consequences could result in a weakened business environment, with many enterprises unable to recover from the financial losses caused by the roadwork.

As residents, stakeholders, community leaders, and business owners we bear the responsibility of demanding transparency and accountability from those who seek to lead us. These consequence and disparities need to be addressed, let's encourage honest dialogue and ensure that the future of our Commonwealth is shaped by informed and thoughtful decisions.

Thank you for your time and attention. Let us remain vigilant and committed to holding our leaders accountable.

Frankie Manglona

Dandan Village

Haitian migrants would eat their pets. Federal hurricane responders in the South were threatened after Trump lied about the Biden administration rescue effort. Local governments are spending tax dollars to protect nonpartisan election workers. Americans prominent and obscure have been forced to get security against death threats after Trump's mendacious attacks. But more prosaically: Citizens should expect truth from their presidents.

1. He was not, and would not be, a president for all Americans. Not MAGA? Not worthy. Trump talks of withholding disaster aid from blue states. He assails Democrats, other domestic critics and the free press as "the enemy within," subject to possible military action.

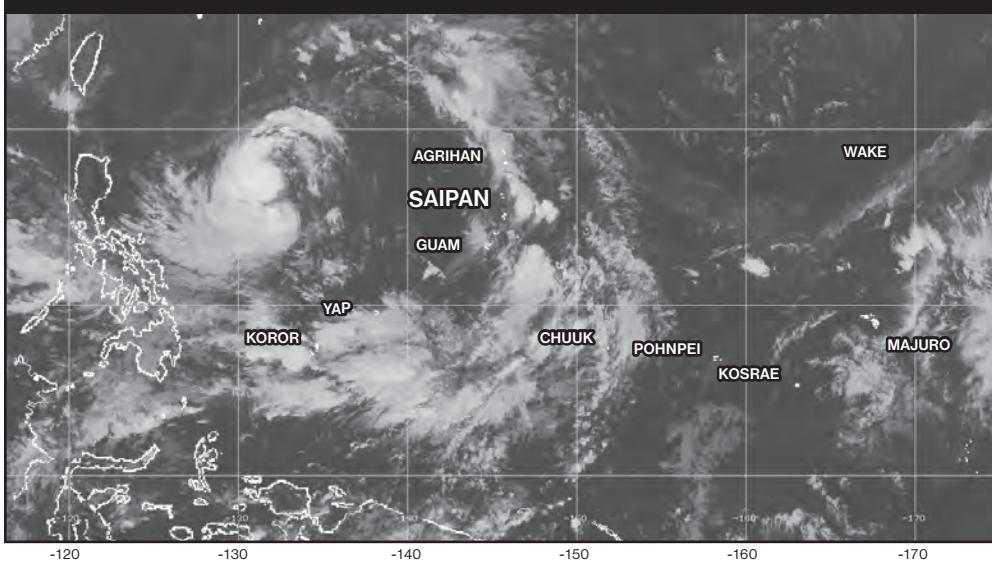
Finally, the bonus, a positive reason to vote Harris. She's not only among the most experienced applicants for the job ever, but also: She's not Trump.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy. South southeast wind 14 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
84°	79°	84°	77°	85°
79°	85°	79°	85°	79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:37 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Shower coverage lower today as drier air wrapping around Tropical Storm Kong-rey pushes in from the west. Showers could still be scattered with isolated thunderstorms, especially this morning as a stream of moisture and enhanced convergence lifts north. The moist monsoonal flow will build back into the Marianas from the south tonight with showers possibly becoming numerous for Guam and Rota. The monsoonal pattern will weaken as it gets pulled northwest by Kong-rey and a drier trade-wind pattern to build into the Marianas around mid-week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 80°
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:39 AM	3:15 PM	-
Tuesday	3:25 AM	3:47 PM	-
Wednesday	4:10 AM	4:20 PM	-
Thursday	4:56 AM	4:53 PM	-
Friday	5:43 AM	5:28 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	66° / 57°
Beijing	Cloudy	66° / 45°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°
London	Cloudy	63° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 66°
Manila	Showers	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°
New York	Showers	63° / 49°
Osaka	Sunny	73° / 61°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	72° / 59°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	71° / 45°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:45 AM	High Tide	1.36
11:03 AM	Low Tide	0.37
5:41 PM	High Tide	1.72
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA076 9:50AM 10:35AM Daily					UA174 8:00AM 8:50AM Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
UA824 11:50AM 2:25PM 1, 3, 5					UA825 5:30PM 10:00PM 2, 4, 7		
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM		
PR 111 5:55AM 7:55AM Daily					UA184 10:25PM 4:15AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA193 6:55PM 10:55PM 2, 5 via Palau					UA192 10:25PM 6:15AM+1 2, 5 via Palau		
UA183 7:20PM 9:10PM Daily					PR110 10:30PM 4:25AM+1 Daily		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					UA184 11:50PM 5:40AM+1 2, 5		
7C3403/2305 4:45AM 10:20PM Daily up to Oct 26					UA184/174 10:25PM 8:50AM +1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam		
UA076/183 9:50AM 9:10PM Daily via Guam					UA192/174 10:25PM 8:50AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam		
UA076/193 9:50AM 10:55PM 2, 5 via Guam, Palau					7C2306/3406 11:10PM 3:10PM+1 Daily up to Oct 26		
7C2306/3211 11:10PM 3:30PM+1 Daily from Oct 27					UA184/174 11:50PM 8:50AM +1 2, 5 via Guam		
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)					INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN		
TW308 2:30AM 6:25AM Daily from Oct 28					7C3406 9:30AM 3:10PM Daily up to Oct 26		
TW308 3:15AM 7:00AM Daily up to Oct 27					7C3211 10:10AM 3:30PM Daily from Oct 27		
7C3403 4:45AM 8:35AM Daily up to Oct 26					TW307 8:00PM 1:30AM+1 Daily up to Oct 27		
7C3405 4:10PM 7:45PM Daily up to Oct 26					TW307 8:30PM 2:15AM+1 Daily up to Oct 26		
7C3212 4:35PM 8:25PM Daily from Oct 27					7C3404 10:10PM 3:40AM+1 Daily up to Oct 26		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN		
HX77 3:05AM 6:00AM 1, 5					HX76 6:25PM 1:35AM+1 4, 7		

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

History of polio eradication campaigns presented at Rotary

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A brief history of polio eradication campaigns was made by Rotary Club of Saipan past president Dr. Peter Gregor before members of the club last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

He said the first polio eradication campaign started in the Philippines in 1979, leading to a call to arms by the World Health Organization in 1988 to eradicate polio by 2000.

Gregor said that by 1997, polio was close to eradication, but the task became increasingly difficult, with setbacks in 2002 particularly in Nigeria due to conservative religious leaders' opposition.

He highlighted the challenges faced in polio eradication, including resistance in Nigeria and the spread of polio from Nigeria, India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. He mentioned the significant achievement of India becoming polio-free in 2011 and eradicating types 2 and 3 polio worldwide in 2015 and 2019, respectively.

"In 2015 one of the three wild types of polio, type 2, was completely eradicated worldwide. And then in 2019 type 3 was completely eradicated worldwide. So right now, the wild polio, there's only type one in the red that's Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said by 1988 compared

CNMI Veterans and Military Families Month this Nov.

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, under the Office of the Governor, would like to invite all military personnel, veterans, their families, and the entire community to join in honoring and celebrating CNMI Veterans and Military Families Month throughout November 2024.

Additionally, OVA will be commemorating Veterans' Week from Nov. 5 to 11, 2024.

The week will officially begin with a proclamation signing ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at 9:30am in the Governor's Conference Room in which all are invited to attend.

As Veterans Day approaches, OVA invites everyone to join the Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at 11am. The event will take place at the Court of Honors in American Memorial Park, Garapan, to pay tribute to our veterans for their service and sacrifice.

For more information, contact the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650/51. (PR)



RACQUEL FLOYD

The presentation was concluded with a group photo, from left, Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann Aquino with honorary member Ana Marie Gregor, Dr. Peter Gregor, and Glenn Perez.

to 2023 you can see the progress that Polio Plus has made, along with other organizations.

Moreover, Gregor explained the concept of herd immunity and its importance in preventing vaccine-derived polio, which can occur when less than 95% of the population is immunized.

He discussed the risks of

vaccine-derived polio, which can occur when immunized children shed weakened virus into sewage systems, leading to mutation and spread. He provided examples of vaccine-derived polio cases in Gaza and Nigeria as he emphasized the need for community surveillance and public health measures.

The independent monitoring board has been publishing reports on polio status, highlighting the challenges of achieving the World Health Assembly's goal of stopping polio transmission by 2000.

"There's an independent monitoring board, which is just a wealth of information, and it published in August and September. And they have been publishing for the last 15 or 20 years and commenting on these statuses. So, in 2012 they said there are 10 months to go to get the World Health Assembly's goal of stopping polio transmission by the end of 2000 and it was 2012 and they just didn't make it, mainly because of the vaccine-derived polio."

Gregor added the impact of COVID-19 on vaccination efforts, including the rise of anti-vaccination sentiments and the resurgence of measles and polio.

He provided examples of measles outbreaks in the United States and polio cases in New York City and Israel,



RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan past president Dr. Peter Gregor during his polio eradication Initiative presentation last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

attributing these to refusal of vaccinations.

In Israel, a public health initiative successfully addressed the issue by cutting off financial support to families who refused vaccination, leading to

increased vaccination rates.

Rotary is responsible for more than 90% of NGO donations to the cause as Gregor highlighted the Rotary's significant contribution to polio eradication. He discussed the funding sources for polio eradication, including the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the World Health Organization, the CDC, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and Rotary.

Additionally, he explained the concept of "Polio Plus," which includes supporting public health, sanitation, and small business initiatives for polio survivors.

He also emphasized the need for increased funding to achieve the goal of polio eradication by 2030, with a target of \$7 billion over the next two to three years.

Gregor ended his presentation by encouraging Rotarians to support polio eradication efforts through donations, by emphasizing the impact of their contribution on global health initiatives.

500 Sails celebrates 10 years of seafaring culture

500 Sails proudly announces its 10th anniversary celebration with a fundraiser on Nov. 15, 2024, from 6pm to 10pm at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. This special evening will feature raffles, entertainment, and more, promising a night of joy and unity.

A decade of impact: Our programs

500 Sails has been on a mission to revive Saipan's cultural maritime traditions and empower the local community. Inspired by the seafaring heritage of the Chamorro and Carolinian people, 500 Sails connects youth and adults to the island's cultural roots while fostering skills development, environmental stewardship, and cultural pride. By offering hands-on experiences in swimming, canoe-building, and sailing, the organization promotes community resilience and sup-

ports future generations.

Over the last decade, 500 Sails has impacted the community through outreach in schools and public events and with community programs that aim to bring canoes and canoe culture back into daily life in the Marianas Islands.

Some of the most popular free community programs are:

- The Sirena Project — swim lessons for women and teenage girls
- The Gamsun Project — swim lessons for high school youth in preparation for life-guard certification classes
- Saturday Sails — traditional sailing canoe rides for the public

500 Sails partners with the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute to train a maritime workforce in the CNMI through the Cultural Maritime Training Center. The CMTC

provides professional and vocational maritime training in canoe building, professional sailing, traditional navigation, and voyaging. The CMTC also provides U.S. Coast Guard certified training for professional mariners including OUPV and master captains licenses, and American Red Cross certified training for water safety instructors and lifeguards.

The 10-year anniversary fundraiser is a celebration of the incredible milestones achieved by 500 Sails over the past decade. All proceeds from the event will support ongoing programs, ensuring the next generation can swim, build, sail, and thrive.

Ticket price: \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a reserved dinner table for eight

Date and time: Nov. 15, 2024/6pm-10pm

Location: Hibiscus Hall,



"Neni" sails around Saipan 2022 led by master navigator Mario Benito.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

Program: Coming soon!

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit 500sails.org/celebration, or contact (670) 323-7245(SAIL).

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Visit 500sails.org/sponsor.

500 Sails is a 501©(3) and CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving, promoting, and pre-

serving the maritime cultural traditions of the Mariana Islands through community engagement in canoe cultural values and activities. 500 Sails' vision is a healthy thriving native community that has successfully integrated traditional cultural values into modern life. Major supporting partners include the CNMI Office of Indigenous Affairs and IT&E. (PR)



The 2017 launch of "Neni," the first of the 500 Sails fleet.

500 SAILS

Business

Tinian SBDC, CEDA empower local entrepreneurs

TINIAN—The Tinian Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, successfully hosted a comprehensive training session on loan programs aimed at empowering local small businesses.

Held at the NMC Tinian Center, the event brought together

business owners seeking guidance on financial opportunities available through CEDA.

The training, led by Marie Coleman, CEDA loan manager, and Fred Cruz, CEDA loan officer, covered a wide range of financial tools and programs that are essential to the growth and sustainability of small businesses. Participants engaged in an in-depth

discussion about available loan options and received valuable insights on how to access funding through CEDA's programs.

"This training was extremely timely for our business community," said Benjamin Huk Borja, Tinian SBDC director and business advisor, "CEDA offers much-needed financial support, and it is im-

portant that our local entrepreneurs take advantage of this opportunity to secure funds that can help strengthen and expand their businesses."

The event included personalized one-on-one consultations, where participants met directly with the CEDA loan team to explore CEDA-related loan services tailored to their specific needs. Eric Kwon, co-

owner of K-Town Coffee on Tinian took advantage of this service, stating, "I appreciate the opportunity to learn more specifics about how CEDA's programs can support my small business. Thank you Tinian SBDC for arranging the opportunity."

Borja also provided individual consultations on SBDC services, offering further assistance to business owners looking for guidance in business plan writing and loan application support.

The CNMI SBDC Network extends appreciation to CEDA for their partnership in offering two training opportunities this month including the recent "Exploring Commercial Loan Programs" during the Women's Entrepreneurship Project held on Saipan.

For more information on

upcoming events or to inquire about the Tinian SBDC's services, contact Borja at (670) 237-9211 or via email at benjamin.borja@marianas.edu. You can also reach CNMI SBDC at cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. Visit our website at www.cnmisbdc.com and follow us on social media for updates at @cnmisbdc on Instagram and CNMI Small Business Development Center on Facebook.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow. (PR)

GRMC launches telehealth program with UCLA Health to enhance cancer care

Guam Regional Medical City is excited to announce the launch of a groundbreaking Telehealth Pilot Program in partnership with UCLA Health. This initiative is aimed at enhancing cancer care on the island, starting with a focus on lung cancer. GRMC will be working directly with Dr. Amy L. Cummings, M.D., Ph.D., a thoracic oncology expert at UCLA Health, seeking to bring the highest level of cancer expertise directly to GRMC patients, potentially reducing the need for off-island travel.

GRMC's Cancer Center specialists provide a full range of treatments including Advanced Chemotherapy, Immunotherapy, Hormone Therapy, Drug Treatment, and Therapies that include the management of any complications. With the addition of UCLA's expertise, GRMC will be able to provide more specialized care for lung cancer patients since Cummings is specifically trained in cancers of the chest and lungs. As a result, GRMC lung cancer patients will gain the expertise of a UCLA Health sub-specialist without having to leave the island, and their treatment will still be delivered at GRMC under the guidance of Cummings.

By using cutting-edge communication technology and adhering to National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines, patients will receive the most up-to-date, interdisciplinary care available. GRMC will be using state-of-

the-art equipment known as a Telehealth Rounder, which will allow Cummings to meet with the patient via a large, lifelike screen inside one of GRMC's Cancer Center exam rooms. Members of GRMC's cancer team will also be present in the room with the patient during the telehealth consultation.

This will not only enhance the quality of care but also provide a more cohesive experience for patients. This effort will enable GRMC patients to consult directly with leading cancer specialists at UCLA Health, one of the nation's leading academic medical centers, without having to leave Guam, and be separated from work and family.

"Here at GRMC, our patients are our partners. We strive to promote knowledge, giving patients the tools to make healthcare decisions with their own values and goals," said Summer Medler, GRMC Cancer Center director of Operations. "With this new program, we are forming a team that brings UCLA's expertise right to our Cancer Center."

The Pilot Program will begin with half-day sessions each month, with plans for future expansion to include more frequent sessions and additional types of cancer care.

Patients and providers who are interested in participating in the telehealth program are encouraged to contact the GRMC Referral Office at (671) 633-GRMC (4762). (PR)

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Life & Style

Phil Lesh, founding member of Grateful Dead and influential bassist, dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Phil Lesh, a classically trained violinist and jazz trumpeter who found his true calling reinventing the role of rock bass guitar as a founding member of the Grateful Dead, died Friday at age 84.

Lesh's death was announced on his Instagram account. Lesh was the oldest and one of the longest surviving members of the band that came to define the acid rock sound emanating from San Francisco in the 1960s.

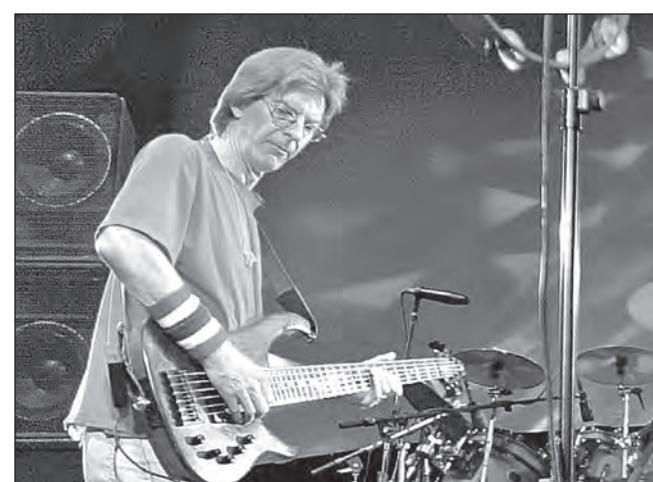
"Phil Lesh, bassist and

founding member of The Grateful Dead, passed peacefully this morning. He was surrounded by his family and full of love. Phil brought immense joy to everyone around him and leaves behind a legacy of music and love," the Instagram statement reads in part.

The statement did not cite a specific cause of death and attempts to reach representatives for additional details were not immediately successful. Lesh had previously survived bouts of prostate cancer, bladder cancer and a 1998

liver transplant necessitated by the debilitating effects of a hepatitis C infection and years of heavy drinking.

Lesh's death comes two days after MusiCares named the Grateful Dead its Persons of the Year. MusiCares, which helps music professionals needing financial or other kinds of assistance, cited Lesh's Unbroken Chain Foundation among other philanthropic initiatives. The Dead will be honored in January at a benefit gala ahead of the Grammy



Phil Lesh, of The Grateful Dead, performs during a reunion concert in East Troy, Wis. on Aug. 3, 2002. AP

whose thundering lines on the six-string electric bass provided a brilliant counterpoint to lead guitarist Jerry Garcia's soaring solos and anchored the band's famous marathon jams.

"When Phil's happening the band's happening," Garcia once said.

Drummer Mickey Hart called him the group's intellectual who brought a classical composer's mindset and skills to a five-chord rock 'n' roll band.

Beyoncé endorses Kamala Harris in joyful speech at Houston rally

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

"I'm not here as a celebrity, I'm not here as a politician. I'm here as a mother," Beyoncé said at a campaign rally for Kamala Harris.

"A mother who cares deeply about the world my children and all of our children live in, a world where we have the freedom to control our bodies, a world where we're not divided," she said Friday night in Houston.

"Imagine our daughters growing up seeing what's possible with no ceilings, no limitations," she continued. "We must vote, and we need you."

At the end, Beyoncé, who was joined onstage by her Destiny's Child bandmate Kelly Rowland, introduced Harris. "Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big, loud, Texas welcome to the next president of the United States, Vice President Ka-



Musical artist Beyoncé on stage at a campaign event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, in Houston. AP

mala Harris," she said.

She did not perform—unlike in 2016, when she performed at a presidential campaign rally for Hilary Clinton in Cleveland.

Houston is Beyoncé's hometown, and Harris' presidential campaign has taken on Beyoncé's 2016 track "Freedom," a cut from her

landmark 2016 album "Lemonade," as its anthem.

Harris first used the song in July during her first official public appearance as a presidential candidate at her campaign headquarters in Delaware. That same month, Beyoncé's mother, Tina Knowles, publicly endorsed Harris for president.

Awards in Los Angeles.

Although he kept a relatively low public profile, rarely granting interviews or

speaking to the audience, fans and fellow band members recognized Lesh as a critical member of the Grateful Dead

Judge blocks further sweeps of homeless camp in New Orleans ahead of Taylor Swift concerts

A judge in Louisiana has temporarily blocked further efforts by state officials to clear homeless encampments in New Orleans—stalling a push that came ahead of three Taylor Swift concerts in the city this weekend.

The effort to relocate about 75 people living in tents beneath an overpass near the Superdome began in the days leading up to pop star's shows, which could draw 150,000 visitors to the stadium.

Judge Lori Jupiter granted a temporary restraining order on Friday, directing state law enforcement officials to not "destroy or dispose of the property of unhoused people without judicial process" and to notify people in the "state

sanctioned camp" that they are "free to leave."

The order is in effect until Nov. 4.

The judge's ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by homeless people who were subject to the sweep. In legal filings, they argued that state troopers violated their constitutional rights by illegally searching, seizing and destroying their property, disposing of their prized possessions and "forcibly herding" them away.

According to the lawsuit, a legal observer overheard state troopers saying "the governor wants you to move because of the Taylor Swift concert."

State officials have said the residents were being

moved to a new location about two blocks away, where unhoused people living in the tourist-heavy French Quarter neighborhood would also be moved.

A spokesperson for Gov. Jeff Landry has said that the effort was meant to address homelessness and safety issues, linking the push to the concerts and February's Super Bowl, which will take place in the city.

"As we prepare for the city to host Taylor Swift and Super Bowl LIX, we are committed to ensuring New Orleans puts its best foot forward when on the world stage," Landry's communications director, Kate Kelly, said in a statement issued to local media. (AP)

Friends keep mum about affair within their circle

DEAR ABBY: Our friend "Carrie" revealed to our close friend group that for the last few years she has been having an affair with her best friend "Julia's" husband. Their kids are best friends, and they spend a lot of time together, even taking family vacations.

We have told Carrie many times how this can affect the kids, which she acknowledges, but the affair continues. This dirty secret is becoming increasingly difficult to keep because we love Julia, but nobody wants to be the messenger. Should we tell Julia, or wait until it inevitably comes out?

ROTTEN IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR ROTTEN: Are you sure Julia knows nothing about the affair and hasn't chosen to ignore it? Julia has children who still live at home. If you spill the beans, what will it do to the intact lifestyle they presumably enjoy? If you prefer not to hear any more about Carrie's hijinks, tell her you don't want to know any more. But I vote for keeping your mouth shut when it comes to making the revelations.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife have been married for three years and have an 8-month-old son. She stays home to care for the baby. My son works from home as well. He has now taken a second job to make ends meet, so three days a week he works 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then leaves from 5 p.m. to

10 p.m. and returns home at 11 p.m.

His wife believes in co-sleeping, which means she sleeps in the bed with the baby, while my son sleeps on a mattress on the floor. This has been going on since the child was born. My son also does 80% of the cooking. They live a thousand miles away, so I can't help. He is almost her slave. I don't want to say anything, but I would like their marriage to last. What should I do?

CONCERNED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONCERNED: The last thing you need to do is interfere. Unless your son complains to you about the arrangement, stay out of it. If the situation becomes intolerable, your son will deal with it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It's been five years since my position as professor at a small graduate school ended. I was forced out after 30 years of teaching, and two years short of my announced retirement date. I did nothing wrong. The reasons given were vague. Being deprived of a solid explanation hurt me deeply.

There was no severance pay and no benefits. I lost a substantial amount of income at a crucial point in my life, but no one seemed to give that a thought. For a long time, I was heartsick. I cannot yet find it in myself to forgive the dean and the president of the school. But somehow, I feel I should. How do I get unstuck? I've actually moved on in

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

many ways, but I just can't forgive.

HURTING STILL

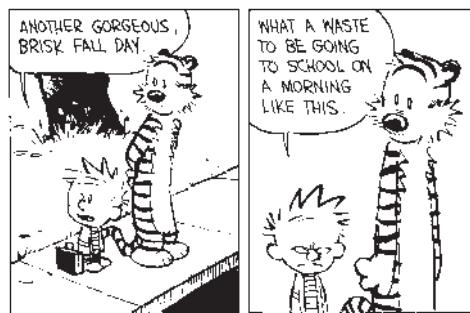
DEAR HURTING: Here's how to get unstuck: Find a competent attorney who specializes in wrongful termination and discuss what was done to you. Follow the attorney's advice, and when you are properly compensated, you are likely to be in a far more forgiving mood than you are today.

■ ■ ■

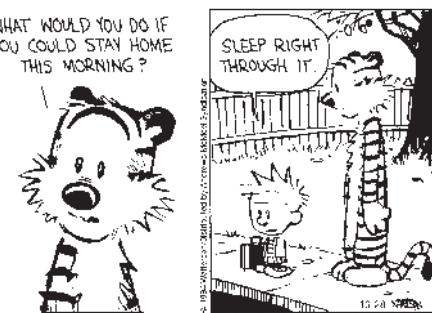
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

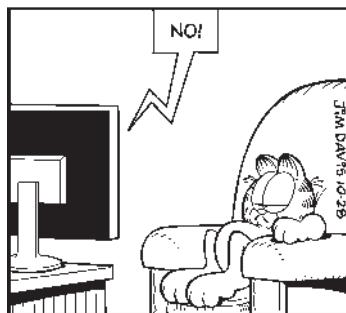
Calvin and Hobbes



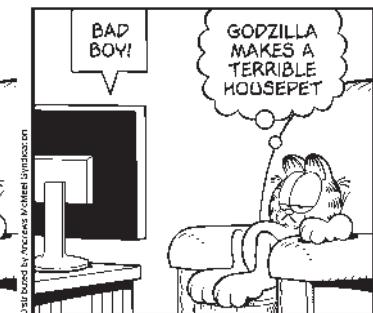
By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

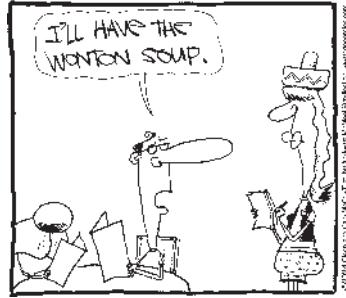


Adam@home

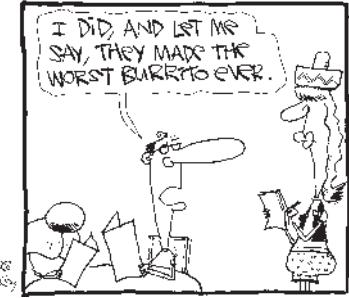


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

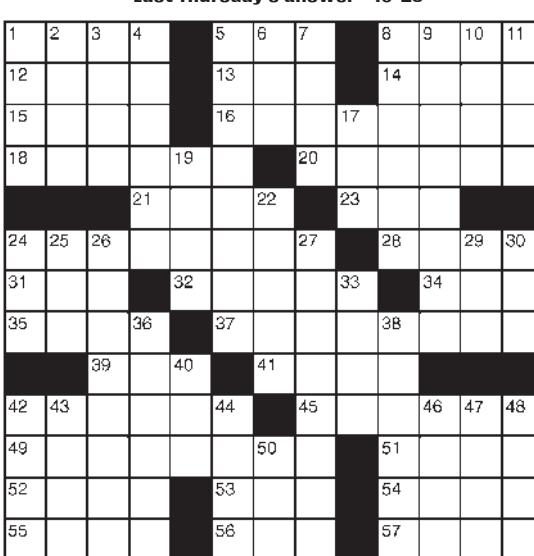
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Most	DOWN	22	Sleep lab
1 Urban haze	39	Print quality meas.	1 Ballpark figure	24	study Cardinal cap
5 Pen name	41	Tarzan's peeps	2 Hosp. scans	25	Espionage org.
8 "Yeah, right"	42	Poolside structure	3 Sty greeting	26	Restrain
12 Half a sextet	45	PBS dinosaur	4 Obtained	27	Move to the rear
13 Comotion	49	Odessa's shoreline	5 Tennis shot effect	29	Mornings (Abbr.)
14 Wine valley	51	Staffer	6 Hollywood's Lupino	30	Nanny's charge
15 "It it — broke ..."	52	Leave a lasting impression	7 Morse —	33	Classic theaters
16 Beats	53	-toe	8 Belly button types	36	Cochise, for one
18 "For shame, for shame!"	54	Sicilian peak	9 Lumbago, e.g.	38	Tel Aviv's land
20 Battery-powered two-wheelers	55	Croupier's tool	10 Duel tool	40	Publicity
21 Anna's sister in "Frozen"	56	Annoy	11 Russian news agency	42	Trucker with a handle
23 Actress Arthur	57	57 Jet type	17 Recede	43	Utah ski resort
24 Fruity liquor			19 High-five sound	44	Sprumante source
28 "Shoo!"			50	Evening, informally	46
31 Uncle (Sp.)				47	"Hair-spray" mom
32 Mottled pony				48	Revolution period
34 Med. plan option				50	Lobed organ
35 Chorus syllables					

Solution time: 21 mins.



Last Thursday's answer 10-28



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nolan Gould, 26; Julia Roberts, 57; Bill Gates, 69; Annie Potts, 72.

Happy Birthday: Put your energy where it will help you connect with people who can further your agenda. Travel, educational pursuits and communication are favored. Refrain from letting emotional spending or misleading information cost you. Use your intelligence and willingness to complete things on time. Embrace new beginnings and unique alternatives that encourage you to take the road less traveled. An adventure will spark your imagination. Your numbers are 5, 12, 24, 27, 32, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep an open mind, but don't buy into something you don't want or need. Haste makes waste, and for the moment, it is best to look inward, gather information and focus on self-improvement and organizing your life to suit your needs. Simplicity and minimalism are favored. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Put your plans in motion. Leave nothing to chance; oversee every detail personally. You have plenty to gain if you keep a steady pace and open mind. Change begins with you, and by embracing an upbeat persona, you will attract the support you need to excel. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Emphasize what's meaningful to you and consider the best route. Avoid letting others sidetrack you or talk you into doing something you don't want to do. A pick-me-up will help you rejuvenate. Update your appearance or sign up for an event or activity that inspires you. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): The stars are aligned, and it's up to you to put them to good use. Apply for something that excites you or promotes something you enjoy doing

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Review the facts and figures before you get involved in something that swallows your time and energy with little payback. You'll gain the most if you focus on your health, finances or contracts up for renewal. Leave nothing undone. Look for opportunities and avoid indulgence. **VIRO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider the pros and cons before you debate with someone who can affect your life personally or professionally. If you overreact, you can expect situations to spin out of control. Bide your time and determine how to proceed with the least backlash. Choose peace over discord. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Recognize what and who could give you an advantage, and align yourself with those who can help you press forward with your plans. Work behind the scenes and avoid outside interference that can squelch your plans before you begin. Preparation is the key to realizing your dreams. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communicate, listen to advice and take the path to victory. Participate in events or activities that offer insight into what's trending or that help you to maintain your position and earn your living. Embrace change, become a forerunner and refuse to let emotional interference deter productivity. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to avoid a technicality that can slow down your progress. Opportunity is apparent, but you must abide by the rules to get everything in writing. It's essential to handle emotional situations honestly and swiftly. A change will turn out better than anticipated. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): When one door closes, another will open. Don't be afraid to let go of what's holding you back. A change will give you a different perspective regarding the possibilities. Refrain from ignoring the obvious and address issues head-on. Make choices that enhance your life and make you happy. **Birthday Baby:** You are opportunistic, insightful and enthusiastic. You are intense and productive.

in a marketable manner and see what transpires. Voice your opinion and share your intentions with someone you love. **Leo**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Review the facts and figures before you get involved in something that swallows your time and energy with little payback. You'll gain the most if you focus on your health, finances or contracts up for renewal. Leave nothing undone. Look for opportunities and avoid indulgence. **VIRO**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider the pros and cons before you debate with someone who can affect your life personally or professionally. If you overreact, you can expect situations to spin out of control. Bide your time and determine how to proceed with the least backlash. Choose peace over discord. **LIBRA**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Recognize what and who could give you an advantage, and align yourself with those who can help you press forward with your plans. Work behind the scenes and avoid outside interference that can squelch your plans before you begin. Preparation is the key to realizing your dreams. **SCORPIO**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communicate, listen to advice and take the path to victory. Participate in events or activities that offer insight into what's trending or that help you to maintain your position and earn your living. Embrace change, become a forerunner and refuse to let emotional interference deter productivity. **SAGITTARIUS**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to avoid a technicality that can slow down your progress. Opportunity is apparent, but you must abide by the rules to get everything in writing. It's essential to handle emotional situations honestly and swiftly. A change will turn out better than anticipated. **PISCES**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your cash and possessions out of sight. Make a point to learn something new to help you utilize your skills and qualifications for success. Show compassion, understanding and leadership abilities, and you will gain the support and confidence of those you encounter. **AQUARIUS**

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Expand your mind, skills and prospects. Research and attend functions that will broaden your awareness and connect you to people who can offer insight into something you want to pursue. Personal improvements will heighten your chance to advance. Romance is in the stars. **PISCES**

(Feb. 19-March 20): When one door closes, another will open. Don't be afraid to let go of what's holding you back. A change will give you a different perspective regarding the possibilities. Refrain from ignoring the obvious and address issues head-on. Make choices that enhance your life and make you happy. **Birthday Baby:** You are opportunistic, insightful and enthusiastic. You are intense and productive.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♦♦: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♦♦♦: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♦♦♦♦: Aim high; start new projects. ♦♦♦♦♦: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ADMIRING YOUR BOSS

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 6 letters

T	E	L	E	A	R	N	Y	T	I	N	U	V	P	P
N	S	S	Z	L	E	T	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C
E	I	U	I	H	R	A	E	C	G	L	N	O	O	O
M	A	C	R	A	O	V	E	N	U	C	F	M	B	M
H	R	O	P	T	O	N	I	E	O	E	M	O	L	P
S	P	F	H	R	R	E	U	S	①	D	T	E	A	A
I	E	D	P	E	I	A	R	S	T	D	H	I	M	S
L	V	M	I	P	R	A	I	M	T	E	C	V	S	S
P	I	T	S	N	G	O	E	N	E	②	A	A	O	I
M	T	N	E	I	N	N	R	E	I	N	E	T	L	O
O	I	E	N	A	T	E	I	E	F	N	T	E	V	N
C	S	G	L	R	M	T	R	R	T	F	G	O	E	A
C	O	T	C	E	P	S	E	R	A	T	O	O	R	T
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	E	C	E	C	A	E
F	F	A	T	S	L	L	I	K	S	M	I	L	E	L

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Accomplishment, Appreciate, Caring, Coffee, Commitment, Compassionate, Creative, Dinner, Encouraging, Focus, Goal, Hero, Honest, Idea, Improve, Inspiring, Learn, Letter, Listen, Mentor, Motivate, Nice, Party, Positive, Praised, Prize, Problem Solve, Professional, Respect, Skills, Smile, Staff, Teach, Team, Training, Unity, Value
Last Thursday's answer: Ominous
The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	3	5		8	7									
6	1	7	9	3	5									
7	1	2				4	9							
			9	6	2									
3				8	1	4								
2				7										
6	1		8		4									
4	7	9		5	8									

Difficulty: ★ 10/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Thursday's Answer

3	4	5	6</

Freeman homers again as Dodgers win for 2-0 World Series lead



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Yoshinobu Yamamoto walked back to his dugout and made the slightest tip of his cap to cheering fans. He left Japan for moments like this, an opportunity to put the Los Angeles Dodgers in control of the World Series.

Yamamoto allowed one hit over 6 1/3 innings, Freddie Freeman homered for the second straight night and Los Angeles beat the New York Yankees 4-2 on Saturday for a 2-0 Series lead.

But the Dodgers will head to New York uncertain whether Shohei Ohtani can play after their biggest star partially dislocated his left shoulder on a slide at second base.

"We're going to get some tests at some point tonight, tomorrow, and then we'll know more in the next couple days," manager Dave Roberts said. "The strength was great. The range of motion good. So we're encouraged."

Tommy Edman and Teoscar Hernández also went deep off starter Carlos Rodón, who tied a Yankees World Series record by allowing three home runs.

New York was held to one hit before the ninth, when the Yankees closed to 4-2 on Giancarlo Stanton's one-out RBI single against Blake Treinen. Anthony Volpe struck out with the bases loaded, and Alex Vesia came in to retire pinch-hitter Jose Trevino on a first-pitch flyout for his first postseason save.

"Thinking back to my front yard at my house, that's what we would envision," Vesia said.

Game 3 is Monday night at Yankee Stadium. Forty-five of 56 teams holding 2-0 World Series leads have gone on to win the title.

"No one said it's going to be easy," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto throws against the New York Yankees during the first inning in Game 2 of the baseball World Series, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, in Los Angeles.

"It's a long series, and we need to make it a long series now. We won't flinch."

Yankees star Aaron Judge went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts. He is 1 for 9 in the Series and is hitting .150 with six RBIs and 19 strikeouts in 40 post-season at-bats.

"Just expanding the zone. That's really what it really comes down to," Judge said. "I think it's trying to make things happen instead of letting the game come to you. ... Plain and simple, I've got to start swinging at strikes."

Yamamoto turned down the Yankees last December and joined the Dodgers for a \$325 million, 12-year contract, a record for pitchers, teaming with Ohtani to create record interest in Major League Baseball back in Japan.

The rookie right-hander threw seven scoreless innings at Yankee Stadium on June 7 but was sidelined from June 15 to Sept. 10 because of

a strained rotator cuff. This was his finest start since the injury.

Yamamoto gave up Juan Soto's third-inning homer, then retired his last 11 batters.

"He was made for those moments," Hernández said. "He was doing it in Japan before he got here, and as soon as he got here, he was doing it here."

Yamamoto struck out four and walked two with a five-pitch array that included curveballs, splitters, sliders and cutters. He improved to 2-0 in four postseason starts.

"It was kind of a mixed feeling because I was very (much) looking forward to it and happy, but then after I felt that I started trying to focus," Yamamoto said through a translator.

Soto's fourth postseason homer, on an inside fastball, was the only run Yamamoto permitted in two starts and 13 1/3 innings against the

Yankees this year.

Soto also singled off the right-field wall in the ninth and scored on Stanton's one-out base hit off the third-base bag. Jazz Chisholm Jr. singled and Anthony Rizzo was hit by a pitch for the second time in the game, loading the bases.

But the rally ended there.

"This is everything to me, playing on the highest stage with literally the two biggest teams you can play for, biggest franchises, most history," Vesia said.

A night after Freeman hit the first walk-off grand slam in Series history to transform a 3-2 deficit with two outs in the 10th inning into a 6-3 win, Edman put the Dodgers ahead with a solo shot in the second.

After Soto tied the score, Mookie Betts singled with two outs in the bottom half and Hernández, in a 3-for-27 slide, homered into the

right-center pavilion. Freeman, who before Friday hadn't gone deep since Sept. 16, worked the count full and homered to right-center again.

Playing on a sprained right ankle, Freeman has homered in four straight Series games dating to Atlanta's last two games against Houston in 2021. That is one shy of the record held by Astros outfielder George Springer.

Freeman had six days off entering the World Series.

"I was able to calm my ankle down," he said. "So hopefully with the flight tonight—I've been swelling a lot on flights — so, hopefully tomorrow we can get it down and get in a good spot for Game 3."

All three Dodgers homers came on fastballs from Rodón, whose 31 longballs allowed during the regular season tied for second-most in the major leagues. Los Angeles had back-to-back Series homers for just the second time, after Pedro Guerrero and Steve Yeager connected against Yankees lefty Ron Guidry for a 2-1 win in Game 5 in 1981.

Rodón gave up four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings. He got just one swing and miss on his fastball.

Los Angeles took a 2-0 Series lead for the first time since 1988, when Kirk Gibson's walk-off homer against Oakland's Dennis Eckersley won the opener and Orel Hershiser followed with a three-hit shutout. The Yankees are 0-2 for the first time since 2001, when they rebounded to win three straight at home and lost Games 6 and 7 at Arizona.

Ohtani's MRI and a determination of his availability will be anxiously awaited by the Dodgers and their fans.

"Not only the dugout, but the whole stadium went silent," Hernández said. "Hopefully he's OK and the day off tomorrow will help him get back on the field Monday."

Judge is flailing in his first World Series, and Yankees are sinking along with him

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aaron Judge is sinking ever deeper into a gruesome postseason slump, and the New York Yankees' championship chances are fading right along with him.

The superstar slugger went 1 for 9 with six strikeouts in his first two World Series games at Dodger Stadium, dragging down New York's offense in two losses to Los Angeles.

Judge was 0 for 4 with three strikeouts in Game 2 on Saturday night. He struggled even to make contact against Yoshinobu Yamamoto and reliever Blake Treinen, who fanned him with Juan Soto on second base for the first out of the ninth inning in the Dodgers' 4-2 victory.

Judge swung and missed six times in his four at-bats in Game 2. The entire Dodgers roster only did that 12 times.

"It definitely eats at you," Judge said. "You want to contribute and help the team, but that's why you've got to keep working and you've got to

keep swinging. I can't just sit here and feel bad for myself. Nobody is feeling bad for me, so you've just got to show up and do the work."

Judge probably will win his second American League MVP award after the season ends, but he is nobody's idea of an October hero at the moment.

He is 6 for 40 (.150) with two homers and a whopping 19 strikeouts in these playoffs, getting all six of his RBIs during a three-game stretch in the AL Championship Series. He is 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position, and he has just one hit in his last 22 at-bats in that situation dating to past postseas.

This isn't anything new for one of the game's top hitters from April to September: Judge's career postseason average has dropped to .199 as the World Series shifts to Yankee Stadium.

Judge's postseason struggles are a painful area for Yankees fans who can't understand why he doesn't produce

at the same rate in the playoffs.

Judge repeatedly said his struggles are rooted in overaggressive pitch selection, and he's trying to remedy it.

"I think it's trying to make things happen instead of letting the game come to you," Judge said. "I think that's what it really comes down to. You see Gleyber (Torres) out there on base, Juan is getting on base, doing things, you want to try to make something happen. But if you're not going to get a pitch in the zone, you've got to just take your walks instead. Plain and simple, I've got to start swinging at strikes."

With 85 career postseason strikeouts, Judge now has the highest strikeout rate (34.3%) in MLB postseason history among players with at least 200 plate appearances.

Nothing in this marquee World Series matchup was more compelling than the matchup of Judge and Shohei Ohtani, the two most dangerous sluggers in baseball.

But while Giancarlo Stan-

ton and Freddie Freeman took some memorable swings in the first two games, the two biggest names had exactly one big hit between them—and then Ohtani injured his left arm while sliding in the seventh inning of Game 2, putting his status in doubt for the Bronx.

Ohtani doubled off the wall and scored the tying run in the eighth inning of Game 1, but the two-way superstar is just 1 for 8 with a walk and two strikeouts in the first two games, repeatedly putting outs in play early in the count.

Judge went 1 for 5 in Game 1, with Jack Flaherty striking him out in his first three at-bats. His only hit was a solid two-out single to center in the seventh, but he popped out with two on to end the ninth inning, failing to come through in a situation tailor-made for postseason heroics.

Even worse, the Dodgers had walked Soto to get to Judge, who couldn't make them pay.

Judge isn't the only New

York hitter coming up small in the clutch, of course: The Yankees are 2 for 14 with runners in scoring position in the World Series.

"He's our leader, he's our captain," New York's Anthony Rizzo said. "The narrative is whatever is made of it, but he's a brick wall. He knows how to handle all this stuff, so I'm proud of who he is as a person, as a leader, and these times right now define him even more, because he comes in every day and he's still the same as he's ever been."

The 6-foot-7 Judge's powerful swing has been loopy and inaccurate lately, although it appeared to be getting more efficient in recent weeks. He's still swinging and missing at an alarming rate, including a poor swing at a slider from Yamamoto below the zone to strike out in the first inning of Game 2. He's frequently been out in front of breaking pitches and behind on fastballs.

He flied out to right to end the third inning, and Yamamoto struck him out again to end the fifth, with Judge flailing at a vicious, low splitter that dipped in on him.

"(I'm) just expanding the zone," Judge said. "That's really what it comes down to. You've got to get a pitch in the zone and drive it, and if you don't, don't try to make something happen."

This is Judge's first postseason since he signed a \$360 million, nine-year contract after setting an AL record with 62 homers in 2022 and beating out Ohtani for the AL MVP award. New York missed the playoffs last fall.

Judge led the majors this season with 58 homers, 144 RBIs and a 1.159 OPS. He batted .322 and scored 122 runs despite enduring a career-long home run drought of 16 games spanning August and September.

"It's all about one at-bat," Soto said. "I feel like when you're a hitter like him, he's one of the greatest. It's only going to take one at-bat for him to lock in and be on it."

Clippers overcome Jokic's 41 points to beat Nuggets, 109-104



DENVER (AP)—James Harden had 23 points and 16 assists, Norman Powell scored 26 of his 37 points in the second half and the Los Angeles Clippers overcame Nikola Jokic's 41 points to beat the Denver Nuggets 109-104 on Saturday.

Jokic made a career-high seven 3-pointers but missed a free throw with 20 seconds left that would have tied the game. Harden made four from the line in the final 30.5 seconds.

The Clippers trailed 103-100 when Powell hit a 3-pointer. Jamal Murray, who had 22 points, missed a layup and Harden then made two free throws.

After Jokic split a pair from the line, Harden made two more foul shots to make it 107-104 and Jokic missed an off-balance 3-pointer.

CELTICS 124, PISTONS 118

DETROIT (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored six of his 37 points in the final 65 seconds and Boston held on for a victory over Detroit.

The Celtics led by as many as 23 points in the first half, but trailed for much of the third quarter. Jrue Holiday tied the game with back-to-back 3-pointers, and Tatum put the Celtics up 116-114 by hitting a pair of free throws with 1:05 left.

The Pistons missed two shots on the ensuing possession and Tatum's jumper made it 118-114 with 29 seconds left.

Malik Beasley's 3-pointer pulled Detroit within one, but Derrick White hit two free throws and Boston clinched the game from the line.

Jaylen Brown had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Boston. Jaden Ivey had 26 points for Detroit while Cade Cunningham finished with 21 points and 10 assists.

CAVALIERS 135,



since Jan. 3. Aldama was 9 of 12 from the field, while Huff made seven of his nine shots.

Franz Wagner scored 23 points for the Magic and Jalen Suggs added 21, both players grabbing seven rebounds apiece. Paolo Banchero finished with 16 points, but was 4 of 12 from the field, part of the Magic shooting 43% for the game.

Memphis held a comfortable lead through much of the game despite notwithstanding 21 straight points by Orlando in the third quarter.

TIMBERWOLVES 112, RAPTORS 101

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Julius Randle had 24 points nine rebounds and five assists and Minnesota beat Toronto.

Anthony Edwards also scored 24 for Minnesota, while Rudy Gobert added 15 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks.

Toronto's Gradey Dick led all scorers with 25 points, while Scottie Barnes had 20 points and Ochai Agbaji added 19 for the Raptors.

SPURS 109, ROCKETS 106

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Victor Wembanyama scored 29 points, Jeremy Sochan added 17 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio held on to beat Houston in their home opener.

Wembanyama added seven rebounds and three blocks while shooting 10 for 17 from the field.

Chris Paul added three points and nine assists, including a drive and feed to Sochan for an open layup that put San Antonio up 104-99 with 1:35 remaining.

After trailing by 22 points in the first half, Houston was within one possession for much of the final minutes. The Rockets went on a 21-8 run in the opening six minutes of the final quarter, turning an 18-point deficit into a 95-90 lead for San Antonio.

Jalen Green had 27 points

for Houston. Fred VanVleet added 18 and Dillon Brooks had 16.

SUNS 114, MAVERICKS 102

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Jusuf Nurkic added 18 points and 14 rebounds and Phoenix beat Dallas.

The Suns never trailed after the first quarter, though the Mavericks kept the deficit in the single digits for much of the night. Luka Doncic scored 40 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while Kyrie Irving added 22 points.

The Suns led 91-80 heading into the fourth quarter and extended the lead to 105-90 six minutes later. Devin Booker added 21 points while rookie Ryan Dunn scored 13 in his first career start. Tyus Jones added seven assists.

The Suns led by as many as 13 in the first half but settled for a 63-55 lead at the break.

LAKERS 131, KINGS 127

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James had a triple-double with 32 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and Anthony Davis added 31 points and nine rebounds to lead Los Angeles to a victory over Sacramento.

The Lakers are undefeated at 3-0 under new coach JJ Redick, and Davis has scored at least 31 points in each game this season.

Los Angeles was up by as many as 15 points in the first half but the Kings cut the lead to 64-60 by halftime and had built a 7-point lead in the third quarter. James helped the Lakers come roaring back with 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Davis had a big 3-pointer with 37 seconds left in the game to give the Lakers a 128-123 lead after the Kings had cut it to two.

Domantas Sabonis also had a triple-double in the loss. He scored 29 points on 10 of 14 shots and added 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

HEAT 114, HORNETS 106

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—Jimmy Butler scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, Tyler Herro added five 3-pointers and 22 points and Miami spoiled Charlotte's home opener with a victory.

Terry Rozier had 19 points and Bam Adebayo finished

THUNDER 114, BULLS 95

CHICAGO

(AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 23 points, Chet Holmgren added 21 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, and Oklahoma City pounded Chicago in the Bulls' home opener.

Ja Morant added 16 points and 10 assists in his first regular-season home appearance

drew up plays for me."

LeBron James is the NBA's career scoring leader with 40,543 points. Behind him is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Dirk Nowitzki, Wilt Chamberlain and then Durant. Durant is 10th on the combined NBA and ABA list, with Julius Erving eighth and Moses Malone ninth.

"What a tribute to a great, generational talent," Suns coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Teammates who passed me the ball, set screens for me, coaches who

GRIZZLIES 124, MAGIC 111

MEMPHIS, Tenn.

(AP)—Santi Aldama scored 22 points, reserve center Jay Huff added a career-high 18 and Memphis built a 26-point halftime team in a victory over Orlando in their home opener.

Ja Morant added 16 points and 10 assists in his first regular-season home appearance

NBA opens investigation into Joel Embiid's playing status after 76ers star misses season opener

The NBA is investigating why Philadelphia center Joel Embiid did not play in the team's nationally televised season opener against Milwaukee. The league confirmed the investigation on Thursday.

It was opened as part of the NBA's player participation policy that went into effect last season. Such a move was to be

expected. The NBA has said that any time a star player misses a game—it defines "star" as someone who was an All-Star or All-NBA selection in any of the previous three seasons, and Embiid is one of those—an investigation can be opened to

"promote compliance" with league rules and can include "independent medical review and related determinations regarding player availability."

Embiid—who helped the U.S. win Olympic gold at the Paris Games—missed the entire preseason and was ruled

out for Wednesday's opener against Milwaukee with the 76ers citing "left knee injury management."

Embiid has a long history of injury issues, including knee problems. Embiid has never played more than 68 games in a season and was limited to 39 last season in large part because of knee surgery. It is not clear how long the investigation will take. Philadelphia was also without Paul George for Wednesday's game; he suffered a bone bruise during the preseason. (AP)

NBA BRIEFS

Kevin Durant becomes the 8th NBA player to reach 29,000 career points, helps Suns beat Mavs

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant became the eighth player in NBA history to score 29,000 career points, reaching the mark Saturday night as his Phoenix Suns beat the Dallas Mavericks 114-102.

The 14-time All-Star scored 31 points against the Mavs and now has 29,010 points over 17 seasons with Seattle,

Stafford throws 4 TD passes in Rams' 30-20 win over Vikings



INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Cooper Kupp and Puka Nacua have missed most of the season due to injury, and the Los Angeles Rams' dismal record reflected it.

When both star receivers came back for the same prime-time showcase, they provided exactly what Matthew Stafford and the Rams have been missing all year—and it was something the Minnesota Vikings couldn't match.

Kupp caught a touchdown pass and Nacua had 106 yards receiving in their returns to the lineup, and Stafford passed for 279 yards and four TDs in the Los Angeles Rams' 30-20 victory over the Vikings on Thursday night.

Demarcus Robinson caught two TD passes from Stafford for the Rams (3-4), who won back-to-back games for the first time this season with 386 yards from an offense that looked ex-

ponentially more dangerous with its top two receivers in uniform.

"They brought a lot of energy to our team, and a ton of confidence," said Stafford, who had thrown just three TD passes in the Rams' first six games combined. "It's not only just the offense. I know the defense feels it too when those guys are out there making plays."

After missing the previous five games, Nacua had seven catches while posting the eighth 100-yard game of his short career. Kupp returned from a four-game absence with five catches for 51 yards, including a 27-yard grab for a key first down late in the fourth quarter.

"It was just so much fun," Kupp said. "Offensively, we were just able to find ways to keep the sticks moving. Guys were just doing their jobs, and it was pretty cool to see us going."

Kyren Williams rushed for 97 yards and caught an early TD pass for the Rams. Robinson caught a 25-yard



good job of getting ourselves back to where we wanted to be."

McVay also won his first head-to-head meeting with Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell, who was his offensive coordinator during the Rams' Super Bowl championship season three years ago.

"I think we were close on some plays," O'Connell said. "But when you're playing against that quarterback, and those receivers getting healthy and getting out there and making some plays for them, I just think it comes down to (whether we) can get enough rush and coverage working together to maybe not give a quarterback like that a couple extra clicks."

Darnold passed for 240 yards for the Vikings (5-2), who followed up their first loss of the season with an ineffective defensive performance. Minnesota also lost starting left tackle Christian Darrisaw to a left knee injury late in the first half.

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford (9) looks to pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif.

TD pass late in the third quarter to put Los Angeles ahead, and he made a 10-yard TD catch with 6:17 to play for a 28-20 lead.

Byron Young then sacked Sam Darnold for a safety with 1:36

left, grabbing Darnold's facemask on the play. Officials didn't throw a flag, sealing the Rams' second win in five days after going 1-4 before their bye.

"I believe in this group," said coach Sean McVay, who became the winningest coach in Rams history with his 80th victory. "I saw resolve. I didn't see a flinch. ... We've done a

13, 21-19; MHS won over defeated KHS, 21-14, 21-18; SSHS bounced back and defeated SIS in three tough sets, 23-21, 16-21, 15-8; KHS edged THS, 21-14, 21-9; SSHS overpowered RHI, 21-15, 21-11; MCS got the better of GCA, 21-17, 21-18; and MHS powered past ACS 21-11-, 21-15.

In an email, PSS Athletics director Nick Gross said of the championship round's postponement, "I'll work with our partner the NMIVA, as well as NMSA regarding use of the Ada Gym to support play. Tuesday (10/29) would be the earliest that we could reschedule play, but please allow us time to work with stakeholders."

The team consists of 23 players—Edward Arriola III, Gavis Ranada, Nolan Ngewakl, Riku Takahashi, Yutaka Kadokura, Aiden Camacho, Chan Woong Yeom, Chan Seo Yeom, Rooney Gil, Terrel Kileleman-Hix, Benetton Haro, Akoni Matsumoto, Kian Estolas, Theo Joab, Taiga Nama-Scoggins, Jayson Tagabuel, Jack Raho, Taher Shakir, John Quidato, Eamon Tang, David Xing, Moshe Sikkel, and Mark Costales.

They are joined by head coach Konomi Suzuki, assistant coach Jireh Yobech, goalkeeper coach Takumi Kanda, Itaas, equipment manager Bernadette Horey, and team doctor/physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

personal record."

Simon also expressed gratitude to those who supported him along his journey. "I want to acknowledge all the people who have helped me in my journey of a thousand days: Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Vincent Camacho, Robin Sapong, Dr. Ron Snyder, Northern Marianas Athletics, Run Saipan, and all the people who have joined me on my path."

Necesito's story is a powerful reminder of the rewards that come with persistence, dedication, and the ability to overcome obstacles. From health and weight loss to personal growth, his journey shows the lasting impact of daily effort.

MHS

From page 16

While the Knights' rotation of Jieun Kwon, Chelsy Reyes, Chealzka Navarro, Mia Yobei, Mia Abuan, Maili Peter, Hope McQuay, Sarah Melchor, Patricia Matsumoto, Aubrey Quitugua, Anjoelena Villagomez, and Aryanna Taimanao tried to stick their footing and make a plea for a tie-breaking third set, MHS put a stop to it quickly and left them at just nine points for a 9-21 final.

The Lady Dolphins are awaiting the winner of the Grace Chris-

tian Academy and Agape Christian School semis game that is scheduled before the championship game.

In the quarterfinals last Wednesday, GCA barely escaped the clutches of the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus in three hard sets, 19-21, 21-10, 15-12.

As for the game between ACS and Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays, ACS lit them up, 21-14, 21-4.

Earlier in the tourney, KHS beat SSHS, 21-11, 21-18; GCA beat Saipan International School, 21-18, 21-17; MCS defeated Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School 21-15, 21-16; ACS took down Tinian High School, 21-

could improve."

In the match, she said, "We had a tough start, but the boys found their rhythm toward the end of the first half. In the second half, they did a great job of stopping most of Indonesia's attacks. It was clear how much effort the boys put in, constantly fighting to win the ball back and keep Indonesia from scoring. The match ended with Indonesia winning, 10-0, but I believe the boys gained a lot of confidence compared to their first match."

She added, "Thank you all for supporting us throughout this tournament. We're excited to see the boys give their best in this final match."

The team consists of 23 players—Edward Arriola III, Gavis Ranada, Nolan Ngewakl, Riku Takahashi, Yutaka Kadokura, Aiden Camacho, Chan Woong Yeom, Chan Seo Yeom, Rooney Gil, Terrel Kileleman-Hix, Benetton Haro, Akoni Matsumoto, Kian Estolas, Theo Joab, Taiga Nama-Scoggins, Jayson Tagabuel, Jack Raho, Taher Shakir, John Quidato, Eamon Tang, David Xing, Moshe Sikkel, and Mark Costales.

They are joined by head coach Konomi Suzuki, assistant coach Jireh Yobech, goalkeeper coach Takumi Kanda, Itaas, equipment manager Bernadette Horey, and team doctor/physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

personal record."

Simon also expressed gratitude to those who supported him along his journey. "I want to acknowledge all the people who have helped me in my journey of a thousand days: Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Vincent Camacho, Robin Sapong, Dr. Ron Snyder, Northern Marianas Athletics, Run Saipan, and all the people who have joined me on my path."

Necesito's story is a powerful reminder of the rewards that come with persistence, dedication, and the ability to overcome obstacles. From health and weight loss to personal growth, his journey shows the lasting impact of daily effort.

NMI

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Garbowski slotted two as well in the 11th and 31st; Max Naylor scored in the 69th and 84th; Nickolas Alfaro had one goal in the 37th; and Jay Maltz contributed one as well in the 60th.

Today is the NMI's final game in the tourney against host Kuwait.

Manager Khristelle Itaas said after their match against Indonesia, "Before lunch, the team met to go over our objectives for the match. The boys also watched footage from their last game against Australia to see what they did well and what they

could improve."

In the match, she said, "We had a tough start, but the boys found their rhythm toward the end of the first half. In the second half, they did a great job of stopping most of Indonesia's attacks. It was clear how much effort the boys put in, constantly fighting to win the ball back and keep Indonesia from scoring. The match ended with Indonesia winning, 10-0, but I believe the boys gained a lot of confidence compared to their first match."

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SIMON

From page 16

"Especially now that I am in my 30s, fitness means a lot more to me," he said.

Reaching 1,000 days brought a deep sense of accomplishment. "The most rewarding part for me is the fact that I hit 1,000 days," Necesito reflected. "To walk in my shoes, you can see the pain, the struggles, the joy, and the successes that came along with this. Compared to how I looked before, I lost 30 lbs, and I never looked back once I put on my running shoes."

For those considering a similar running streak, Necesito offered encouraging advice: "Don't feel bad about breaking your streak. It took me several years to keep the streak up. It gets hard, but it's important to keep accountability."

One of his most challenging experiences was participating in the Saipan Marathon. "I didn't run one mile... I ran 26 miles. My feet were sore for weeks, but I felt great because I got to do something that my past self can be proud of."

His best run, he said, was during the 2023 Oceania Cup. "Not only did I get to represent the NMI Team, but I finished in 6:09, which was my best

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	199	136
Miami	2	4	0	.333	70	129
N.Y. Jets	2	5	0	.286	128	145
New England	1	6	0	.143	99	175

South

Houston	5	2	0	.714	165	159
Indianapolis	4	3	0	.571	155	149
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	145	194
Tennessee	1	6	0	.167	106	144

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	218	180
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	161	101
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	178	166
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	109	162

West

Kansas City	6	0	0	1.000	146	103
Denver	4	3	0	.571	145	106
L.A. Chargers	3	3	0	.500	106	83
Las Vegas	2	5	0	.286	124	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
Washington	5	2	0	.714	218	152
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	134	115
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	5</				



**Freeman
homers again
as Dodgers win
for 2-0 World
Series lead**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Stafford throws
4 TD passes
in Rams' 30-
20 win over
Vikings**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS advances to girls v-ball finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marianas High School Lady Dolphins advanced to the championship round of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 and now awaits their opponent after the playoff games last Wednesday and Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The championship round that was scheduled for last Friday was postponed to sometime this week due to inclement weather.

In their semis game against Mount Carmel School Knights, they breezed through, 21-13, 21-9.

The MHS squad of Rizza Relucio, Erica Zandueta, Cassie Regan, Sheira Dela Rosa, Jayme Vargas, Arianna Estrada, Ella Hall, Direna-



LEIGH GASES
Marianas High School Lady Dolphins varsity players are hyped up during a huddle during a game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the MHS Gymnasium.

Lyn Castro, Fiona Regan, Savita Sikkel, and Charlotte Amano faced off against the Knights—who was one of only two losses in the regular season.

They came into the game with an unmatched vengeance and stopped the Knights in their tracks early as they sprinkled the first set with hard kills and well-placed serves. The

Knights tried to pace a fiery Lady Dolphins team but could only land 13 points for a 13-21 first set.

The Lady Dolphins then brewed an even more perfect storm in the second set as they careened themselves into a dominating performance that left the Knights in shambles.

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LEIGH GASES
Marianas High School Lady Dolphins' Rizza Relucio goes for an overhead serve during a game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the MHS Gymnasium.

NMI is 0-2 in U17 Asian Cup

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP 2025
The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team have lost two in a row in their three-game campaign in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Thursday and Saturday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

There are 10 groups in the tournament, with the NMI in Group G.

In their most recent game last Saturday against Indonesia, they conceded less goals, 0-10, than in their debut against Australia in which they lost, 0-19.

Indonesia stole the show early with a 2-0 lead just eight minutes in after goals by Muhamad Zahaby Gholy. They only went up from there as the young islanders scrambled to fortify their defenses, but conceded five more goals.

Muhammad Aldyanshah Taher scored in the 16th and 24th; Evanda Florasta in the 21st; and I Komang Gelgel added two in the 23rd and the 43rd for a 7-0 game.

The NMI team tried to regroup in the second half, but Indonesia contin-



LEIGH GASES
NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team's starting 11 against Indonesia poses for a group photo before their match in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Saturday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

ued to pummel their goal. Ida Bagus Pramana found the net in the 68th, Daniel Afrido scored in the 88th, and Fadly Alberto Hengga netted the last goal in two minutes extra time, 90+2.

As for their first matchup against a formidable Australian team, the NMI took a beating but didn't let that crush their spirits and came back better against Indonesia.

Australia's Anthony Didulica was

the star as he collected five goals from the 25th, 26th, 38th, 45+1, and 58th minutes.

Max Anastasio followed behind with a hat-trick in the 35th, 49th, and 83rd, while Quinn Macnicol mirrored him with three goals as well in the 8th, 24th, and 70th.

Amlani Tatu then pocketed two in the 4th and 17th; Alexander

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Simon says I'll run 1K days straight

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
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CORRESPONDENT



Simon Necesito recently completed a significant milestone—running at least one mile every day for 1,000 consecutive days, an achievement referred to as “hitting the comma.” What began as a weight-loss goal turned into a way to manage stress and became a central part of his routine.

“For me, it was because I wanted to lose weight,” Necesito shared. “But as I continued, it became a way for me to relieve the stresses I face.”

The journey was far from easy. Some of the 29-year-old Dandan Middle School teacher’s most difficult moments involved running while sick.

“Some of my hardest challenges were when I had to run while I was sick,” he said. “Running on a fever was a horrifying moment for me.”

Despite these tough days, Necesito refused to let anything break his streak. He found ways to fit running into his daily schedule, no matter what the day brought.

“I usually carry three sets of running clothes with me at all times—one in my car, one at work, and one in my bag,” he explained. This readiness allowed him to keep his commitment to running, even on the busiest days.

Like many athletes, Necesito experienced injuries, particularly during his first year of running. “I had



MVA
Simon Necesito at the 2024 Saipan Marathon hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in 2024.

some injuries on the back side of my right knee,” he said. “I got a referral to Eucon Medical. The therapy and advice I got from there helped me to get back.”

One of Necesito’s key strategies for staying motivated was realizing how little time the daily run took. “I realized my average running time was 10-15 minutes,” he said. “From there, all I needed to do was get that in. Whenever I feel like I don’t want to run, I remind myself that there are 24 hours in a day, and my run times are just 1% of my day. I know I can commit to fitting in that 1%.”

Running has now become an integral part of Necesito’s life.

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